

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G.#68-10-1

Building Date: 1889-90

Building name: Welsh house

Location: 4200 Farragut Street, Hyattsville, MD

Private/Residence Occupied/Fair/Inaccessible

Description:

The Welsh house is a two-and-one-half-story frame house of four asymmetrical gabled wings. A one-story cross-gabled porch runs along the main south facade and wraps around to the west wing. The house rests on a brick foundation. Its first story has German siding; the second story had square-cut wooden shingle siding, which was removed when asbestos shingle was applied in the 1940's. The present owners are in the process of restoring the siding. The four gables have half-timbered cantilevered peaks with knee brackets, a course of vertical tongue-and-groove siding, and a lower course of fishscale shingles. The interior, which is arranged on the front and back parlor plan typical of the period, exhibits distinctive features, such as the interior vestibule, and retains most of its original detail, including woodwork and mantels.

Significance:

The Welsh house is a fine example of a late Victorian house with strong Queen Anne elements. It was built 1889-90 for Charles H. Welsh, a banker who was instrumental in Hyattsville's development. Welsh was one of the founders in 1887 of the Hyattsville Building Association which financed much of Hyattsville's early development. Although the house has deteriorated over the last fifteen years, it has had little interior or exterior alteration. Its present owners are currently undertaking careful restoration. Its location on a corner lot within the National Register Historic District in Hyattsville make it a prominent landmark: a Victorian town dwelling with strong Queen Anne detail.

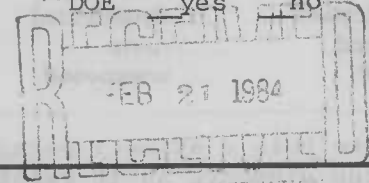
Acreage: 95 by 145 feet

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

DOE yes no



### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Welsh House

and/or common

### 2. Location

street &amp; number 4200 Farragut Street

not for publication

city, town Hyattsville,

vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

county Prince George's

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Spencer C.S. &amp; Anita M. Hines

street &amp; number 4200 Farragut Street

telephone no.: (301) 277-2592

city, town Hyattsville, Maryland

state and zip code 20781

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse

liber JWB 2

street &amp; number

folio 618

city, town Upper Marlboro

state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Hyattsville Historic District, National Register of Historic Places

date November, 1980

☒ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records U.S. Department of the Interior

city, town

state

## 7. Description

Survey No. PG:68-10-1

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Welsh house is a late nineteenth century house with strong Queen Anne influence, seen especially in its elaborate gable ornamentation, asymmetrical massing and horizontal division of surface treatments. With the exception of the addition of asbestos siding, probably in the 1940's, which the present owners are in the process of removing, the exterior of the house is almost unchanged since it was built. The interior, which is arranged on the front and back parlor plan typical of the period, exhibits some distinctive features, such as its interior vestibule, and retains most of its original detail, including woodwork and fireplaces.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Welsh house, built in 1889-90, is situated in Hyattsville at the northeast corner of Farragut Street and Forty-second Avenue, facing South.

It is a 2½ story frame house of four asymmetrical gabled wings. A one-story cross-gabled porch runs along the facade and wraps around to the west wing. Another one-story porch with shed roof covers the east side of the rear service wing.

There is a two-story bay window on the west elevation and a one-story bay window on the east elevation. The house rests on a brick foundation and has a partial basement. The first story is covered with german siding. The second story was originally covered with square-cut wood shingles which were removed when asbestos siding was applied in about the 1940's. The present owners have removed the asbestos from the first story and plan to restore the wood shingles to the second story in 1984. The rear service wing housing the kitchen and a maid's room above has german siding on the first and second stories.

The four gables have half-timbered cantilevered peaks with knee brackets, a course of vertical tongue-and-groove siding, and a lower course of fish-scale shingles, flared at the bottom. Each gable has a central one-light window (The north gable has two windows.) with jigsaw trim.

The roof, originally covered with wood shingles, is now covered with asphalt shingles. The porches are covered with standing seam metal; the bay window on the east side has a copper roof and the west side bay window has a terne metal roof.

The windows are one-over-one double-hung sash. The two first-story windows on the facade and the north-facing window opening onto the side porch are floor-to-ceiling. A nine-foot Queen Anne style stained glass window illuminates the landing of the main staircase on the west side.

(See Continuation Sheet A.)

# 8. Significance

Survey No. PG:68-10-1

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1889-90

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Welsh house is a good example of a late Victorian house with strong Queen Anne elements. Its style and proportions are typical of the period for the position and circumstances of its original owner, Charles H. Welsh. Though allowed to deteriorate over the past fifteen years, it has had little interior or exterior alteration. The Welsh house is prominently sited on a corner lot in the richest section of Hyattsville's National Register Historic District and is closely associated with local history in its connection with the Welsh family, Charles Henry Welsh in particular, who played an important role in Hyattsville's development as a late nineteenth century commuter town.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Welsh house was built in 1889-90 on two lots bought soon after Louis D. Wine and George J. Johnson subdivided the land formerly known as Bryan's Farm.\*

Charles Welsh, a descendent of the prominent Maryland Welsh and Hammond families,\*\*lived in the house with his wife and two children. He was an influential citizen and banker who was instrumental in Hyattsville's development as a town in the late nineteenth century. He was one of a group of founders, in 1887, of the Hyattsville Building Association, now Maryland Federal Savings and Loan Association, which financed much of Hyattsville's early development and still maintains its main office in Hyattsville. Among the buildings financed was the City's first town hall and fire department in 1910. Diagonally across from the Welsh property stands the first house financed by the Hyattsville Building Association in 1887 which is depicted in a mural in the Association's Hyattsville office.

(See Continuation Sheet B.)

\*In 1890, Charles Welsh bought a third adjacent lot from Johnson and Wine; he built a second house there in 1903-4, reputedly for his daughter. Interestingly, this 1903 house, though built 14 years later, is of less modern design than the Welsh house.

\* His gr.gr.gr. grandfather, Col. John Welsh II of Arnold Gray on the South River, was a merchant and large landowner whose holdings included Snowden and Welsh and Welsh's Discovery in Prince George's County.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG: 68-10-1

(See Continuation Sheet C.)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 95 x 145 feet

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting NorthingB 

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Zone Easting NorthingC 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Welsh house occupies lots 1 and 2, square A, of Johnson & Wine's 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition to Hyattsville.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anita Hines

organization \_\_\_\_\_

date February 5, 1984street & number 4200 Farragut St.telephone (301) 277-2592city or town Hyattsvillestate Md. 20781

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

## 7. Description - Continuation Sheet A

The house has a central brick chimney. A second chimney inside the north wall of the kitchen wing was removed early in the house's history.

The main entrance to the house is on the south side, originally through double doors surmounted by a one-light transom. The double doors were replaced with a panelled single door by a former owner, and wood trim added to narrow the opening. The present owners plan to remove the added trim and install salvaged double doors. A bell-pull to the right of the door has been restored by the owners. The tile-floored interior vestibule retains its double doors, also surmounted by a transom.

The dog-leg main staircase, which leads off to the west from the front hall, has a mahogany bannister with turned newell post, and turned balustres. A back staircase with winders occupies the east side of the back hall.

The front parlor is entered through a pair of panelled pocket doors from the east side of the front hall; two eight-foot panelled doors at the rear of the hall lead to the dining room and the back parlor. Two more pairs of panelled pocket doors lead from the front parlor to the back parlor and from the back parlor to the dining room beside it.

The front parlor has the original carved wood mantel with cast-iron fireback, and the back parlor retains its marbleized slate fireplace.

The back hall is entered by an eight-foot panelled door from the back parlor. The kitchen is reached through the back hall. The kitchen originally was connected through a pantry to the dining room. This pantry was converted to a bathroom some time before 1946, and the connecting doorways removed in favor of a doorway into the back hall.

Most of the woodwork throughout the house is original; some woodwork has been milled to match by the present owners. Much of the original plaster remains in the front portion. The plaster in the service wing was extensively damaged by plumbing leaks and structural defects and has been replaced with drywall.

A metal-lined wooden cistern remains in a third story room directly above its disused drain in the basement, probably originally serving the first-floor pantry and a second-story bathroom, original to the house, both of which lie in a direct line between the cistern and drain. There is a well outside the kitchen on the north side.

A speaking tube leading from the kitchen to the upstairs back hall remains within the walls, though the external hardware is missing.

An outbuilding on the property has been torn down.

## 8. Significance - Continuation Sheet 5

Charles Welsh served as treasurer and on the board of directors of the Hyattsville Building Association until his death, as well as serving as Vice President and board member of the later-established First National Bank of Hyattsville. He served as a town commissioner both before and after Hyattsville's incorporation, and is credited with bringing the first water and sewer system to the City.

Thomas H. Welsh, his son, continued the family's preeminence, eventually becoming president of the Hyattsville Building Association, and serving as councilman and then as mayor.\*\* Charles Welsh's grandson, T. Hammond Welsh, Jr., also became a president of Maryland Federal Savings and Loan Association.

Charles Welsh lived in the house until his death in 1934, when he willed his property jointly to Thomas Hammond Welsh and to his daughter, Margaret Welsh Herring. In May of 1935, Margaret Herring deeded her half-interest in the house to Thomas Hammond Welsh,\*\*\* who sold the house in 1946.

\*\*In 1912, Thomas H. Welsh bought Fox's Barn, next to the Welsh house, from Gertrude Fox.

\*\*\*At the same time, Thomas H. Welsh deeded to Margaret Herring his half-interest in the house built on the third lot. This house she sold in 1946.

## 9. References - Continuation Sheet C

Land Records for Prince George's County, Liber JWB 1, Folio 247.  
(Joseph B. Bryan to Wine & Johnson, 1882)

Ibid., Liber JWB 3, Folio 26. (Johnson and Wine to Paul Daniels, 1884)

Ibid., Liber JWB 13, Folio 762. (Paul Daniels to Charles Welsh, 1889)

Ibid., Liber JWB 3, Folio 227. (Wine & Johnson to Charles Welsh, 1890)

Ibid., Liber 422, Folio 442. (Margaret W. Herring to Thomas H. Welsh, 1935)

Ibid., Liber 422, Folio 443. (Thomas H. Welsh to Margaret W. Herring, 1935)

Ibid., Liber 804, Folio 363. (Thomas H. Welsh to Rebecca Thompson, 1946)

Will of Charles H. Welsh, Register of Wills for Prince George's County, docket no.5436.

Tax Assessment Records for Prince George's County, 1888, MdHR 12,216, p. 25.

Ibid., 1889, MdHR 12,217, p.44.

Ibid., 1890, MdHR 12,218, p.44.

Ibid., 1891, MdHR 12,219, p.46.

Ibid., 1902, MdHR 12,239, p.138.

Ibid., 1904, MdHR 12,243, p.152.

"Charles H. Welsh, Beloved Hyattsville Citizen, Dies after Pneumonia Attack," Hyattsville Independent, December 21, 1934, p.1.

Advertisement for Hyattsville Building Association, Hyattsville Independent, December 7, 1934.

Welsh, Luther, Welsh-Hyatt and Kindred, Lambert-Moon Printing Co., Independence, Mo, 1928, pp.43-79.

Plat Book, Glenwood Cemetery, Washington, D.C., Section C, Lot 79.

Interview, Hervey Machen, 11/20/83.

Interview, T. Hammond Welsh, Jr., 11/19/83.

Interview, Francis X. Geary, 1/24/84.

Lantern Slide photograph, c. 1920, from collection of Francis X. Geary.

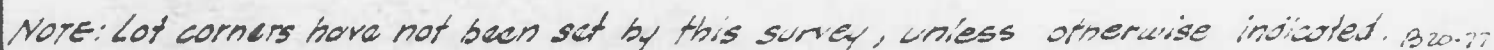
## 9. References (Continued)

Hopkins Atlas of Prince George's County, 1878, p.46.

Plat, "J. Bryan's Farm," surveyed by George W. Jackson, 1873,  
Liber JWB 1, Folio 246, Land Records of Prince George's County.

Plat, "Wine and Johnson's Second Addition to Hyattsville," enrolled  
January 4, 1884, Liber JWB 2, Folio 618, Land Records of Prince  
George's County.

McGuckian, E., Nomination Form for the National Register of Historic  
Places, National Parks Service, Hyattsville Historic District, 1980.



<h1>ENGINEER'S CERTIFICATE</h1>	<h1>REFERENCE</h1>	<h1>PARKINSY SURVEYS</h1>	
<p>I hereby certify that I have carefully surveyed the property shown and described hereon, in accord with record description, and have located o. of the existing improvements thereon by a transit-tape, and that corners have been found or placed as shown, and that there are no encroachments either way across the property except as indicated.</p>	<p>Plot Book: A Plot Number: 20A</p>	<p>6212 BALTIMORE AVENUE RIVERDALE, MARYLAND</p>	
<p>Clinton B Light Jr. P.E. &amp; L.S. MD# 7.5</p>	<p>Liber:  Folio:</p>	<p>UN 4-7458</p> <p>Checked: [Signature] Scale: 1" = 30' Date: 8-30-67</p>	<p>Record No. 9.5-1618</p>



WASHINGTON EAST E



P.G. #68-10-1

Welsh house

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

October 1984

South elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #68-10-1

Welsh house

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

October 1984

West elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #68-10-1

Welsh house

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

October 1984

South gable end

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #68-10-1

Welsh house

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

October 1984

Door, south elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #68-10-1

Welsh house

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

October 1984

Mantel, front (southeast) parlor

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #68-10-1

Welsh house

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

October 1984

Molding in center hall

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD